

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9663

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJ: NOMINATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR REPUBLIC SUPREME

SOVIET ELECTIONS

1. PRAVDA PUBLISHES APRIL 25 RESULTS OF FIRST DAY OF  
NOMINATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO  
REPUBLIC SUPREME SOVIETS. AS IS CUSTOM, POLITBURO  
MEMBERS ARE NOMINATED BY VARIOUS DISTRICTS AROUND  
COUNTRY, ALTHOUGH ULTIMATELY EACH WILL BE ELECTED  
IN ONLY ONE DISTRICT. AS WAS CASE WITH LAST YEAR'S  
NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS TO USSR SUPREME SOVIET,  
BY TOTING UP NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH EACH LEADER  
IS NOMINATED, WE CAN GET IDEA OF RELATIVE RANKING  
OF LEADERSHIP.

2. PRAVDA RESULTS SHOW FOLLOWING (FIGURES ARE NUMBERS  
OF ELECTORAL DISTRICTS NOMINATING EACH POLITBURO  
MEMBER): BREZHNEV - 16, PODGORNY - 10, KOSYGIN - 10,  
SUSLOV - 3, KIRILENKO - 3, REST OF FULL MEMBERS OF  
POLITBURO EACH NOMINATED BY ONE DISTRICT.  
NOMINATIONS OF CANDIDATE POLITBURO MEMBERS NOT YET  
PUBLISHED.

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3. COVERAGE OF BREZHNEV CANDIDACY OVERWELMS ALL

OTHERS. OF CENTRAL NEWSPAPERS ALL BUT ONE RUN PICTURES OF MEETINGS IN ELECTROAL DISTRICTS WHICH SHOW ONLY BREZHNEV'S PICTURE BEING HELD UP BY ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORTERS. ONLY EXCEPTION IS LENINSKOYE ZNAMYA (MOSCOW OBLAST PAPER) WHICH SHOWS BREZHNEV PICTURE OUT FRONT, FLANKED BY PODGORNY TO HIS RIGHT AND KOSYGIN TO HIS LEFT. BREZHNEV'S NAME ALSO APPEARS FIRST IN ACCOUNT OF ELECTORAL MEETING IN EACH REPUBLIC.

4. COMMENT: WHILE NUMBERICAL RESULTS ARE AS EXPECTED, ORDER OF NOMINATIONS (CONSIDERING ONLY FIRST TIME NAME APPEARS AND DISREGARDING MULTIPLE NOMINATIONS) AS THEY ARE LISTED IN PRAVDA REPORT, IS SOMEWHAT CURIOUS. NOMINATIONS FROM MOSCOW LEAD OFF, AND NAMES APPEAR IN FOLLOWING ORDER: BREZHNEV, PODGORNY, KOSYGIN, GRISHIN. GRISHIN'S JUMPING AHEAD OF REMAINDER OF POLITBURO IS NOT UNUSUAL BECAUSE HE IS MOSCOW PARTY CHIEF AND WOULD BE EXPECTED TO BE NOMINATED FROM ELECTROAL DISTRICT IN CAPITAL. NEXT COME LENINGRAD NOMINATIONS -- SUSLOV, KIRILENKO, MAZUROV, THEREAFTER (AGAIN DISREGARDING NAMES WHICH HAD APPEARED EARLIER IN PRAVDA ACCOUNT) REPORT LISTS POLYANSKIY NOMINATED FROM ALTAY KRAY, PELSHE FROM VOLGOGRAD, GROMYKO FROM KALINGRAD, KULAKOV FROM PENZENSKAYA OBLAST, GRECHKO FROM ROSTOV-NA-DONU, AND ANDROPV FROM TUL'SKAYA OBLAST. IN REPORTS FROM REPUBLICS OTHER THAN RSFSR, ACCOUNT LISTS SHCHERBITSKIY NOMINATED FROM THE UKRAINE AND, FURTHER DOWN THE LIST, KUNAYEV FROM KAZKHSTAN. WHILE SOME MIXING MIGHT BE EXPECTED BECAUSE OF DESIRE TO SPREAD NOMINATIONS AROUND, WE FIND ORDER SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL, PARTICULARLY KULAKOV'S LOW PLACEMENT. WHILE WE FIND THIS INTERESTING, WE ARE NOT READY TO ATTRIBUTE MUCH SIGNIFICANCE TO IT, PENDING FURTHER ASSESSMENTS OF PRESS ACCOUNTS OF NOMINATIONS FROM AROUND THE COUTRY.

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